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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Radio Service

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

HOMEMAKERS' CHAT Thursday, September 7, 1939.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "FELLOWSHIP WINNERS." Information from the Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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"On October first, two more winners of the National 4-H club fellowship awards of one thousand dollars each will come to Washington for 9 months' study in the U.S. Department of Agriculture." So writes our correspondent in the capital city. She adds some interesting details about these and previous winners of similar fellowships.

These annual awards, as you no doubt remember, are won by a young man and young woman who have been outstanding 4-H club members. For the past 8 years, our reporter explains, the awards have been given by the Payne Fund of New York City. This year they are sponsored by the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work of Chicago, Illinois.

But how does a club member qualify for the fellowship? Well, the winners this year were selected from 30 applicants- 14 young women and 16 young men from 21 states. A committee of the Extension Service in the Department of Agriculture passed on the merits of the applicants and chose Lillian Ann Murphy of Bremen, Indiana, and Wilmer W. Bassett, Jr., of Monticello, Florida.

"Both of these young people had been active members of 4-H clubs. During the time they were eligible for membership, they won many honors and awards for the excellence of their work on the farm and in the home. Both are now county extension agents. Miss Murphy is home demonstration agent in Vigo County Indiana, and Mr. Bassett is assistant agricultural agent in Lake County, Florida.

"But before achieving this 'summa cum laude' recognition for 4-H Club work, the record of each is a history of hard work, leadership, and repeated honors. To

take the lady first: Miss Murphy grew up on a farm in St. Joseph County, Indiana, in a family of 5 girls and 2 boys. Her 11 years in club work extends over the period of high school and into her college years. She received her B.S. degree in home economics from Purdue University in 1938. Then she became a home demonstration agent, working with 850 homemakers and 784 4-H club girls.

"The projects that come under homemaking activities with women are a reflection in a way of Miss Murphy's own experience as a 4-H club member in 15 different clubs. They have included house furnishing, gardening, landscaping, constructive use of leisure time, use of dairy products in the home, cooking cheaper cuts of meat, and safety in the home.

"As a club member, Miss Murphy held offices of president, vice-president, secretary, song leader and news reporter, and was later a local leader of 4-H clubs in her county for 2 years. She won the trip to the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago in 1933, and at that time she was the national achievement winner and was awarded the President's trophy. No wonder she was chosen as a delegate to the 1936 National 4-H Club Camp in Washington!

"In college she had a career of equal brilliance marked by leadership in many fields of college activity, and affiliation with popular organizations and clubs. She will spend her 9 months in Washington studying and preparing a thesis on some phase of home economics in its relation to extension work.

"Now for Mr. Bassett. His career parallels Miss Murphy's in that he won a trip to the Nation 4-H Club Congress in Chicago in 1931 and he has been in Washington before as a delegate to the National 4-H Club Camp in 1933. During his 6 years of active 4-H club membership he acted as president of his club for 3 years and leader for 1 year, attended 4 State short courses and 3 summer camps. He got his B.S. degree from the University of Florida in 1937. While he was at college he took an active part in glee club and debating activities, was associate editor and editor of the college paper, a leader in many extra-curriculum activities and a member of

various fraternal and scientific societies. He substituted in pulpits for ministers a number of times.

"It is interesting to follow the later career of those who have already won fellowships and put in a winter of intensive study under the guidance of Department of Agriculture scientists and specialists. Sometimes the thesis prepared during that year gives a hint of the field entered later.

"To cite a few cases: Margaret Latimer, 1932-33 winner, wrote a thesis on planning a program of extension work for older farm girls. She's now assistant state club leader in North Dakota. George Harris of the same year based his thesis on the work of the Bureau of Dairy Industry, and is now State Extension Specialist in Dairying in Kentucky.

"Mildred Ives, 1934-35, suggested a procedure for incorporating home management in the 4-H club program,-and is practising her ideas both professionally and personally, since she's county home demonstration agent in North Carolina, and is also married. Edwin Matzen of that year has capitalized on his interest in farm economics and marketing in his work of the agricultural staffs of Cornell and Purdue Universities.

"Ruth Durrenberger's thesis in 1936-37 was centered around the contributions of 4-H club work to better family living. So it's natural to find her a home demonstration agent in her home state, Florida. The winners in 1937-38, Winifred Perry of Vermont and Kenneth Anderson of South Dakota, developed the only romance thus far recorded, and were married a short time ago. Miss Perry had made a study of the consumer-buying information available in the Federal Government with reference to its use in 4-H club activites, and became county club agent in Vermont up to the time she became Mrs. Anderson and moved to Chicago. Her husband's special interest while here was strengthening the 4-H club news program. So it's not surprising to find him service director for the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work in Chicago.

"The subjects selected for study by Miss Murphy and Mr. Bassett have not been announced, but when they are known, one can make a guess as to what they'll each be doing a few years hence. Good luck to each of them!"

That's the end of our Washington report for this week.